



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

MAR 07 2010

Senator Doug Ericksen  
Washington State Senate  
Senate Energy, Environmental and Telecommunication Committee  
Post Office Box 40442  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Senator Ericksen:

Thank you for your letter of January 25, 2018, regarding Washington's Human Health Water Quality Criteria and implications for wastewater permitting. I appreciate that the Washington State Senate has taken an interest in this important subject.

Washington's Department of Ecology, the state agency with the delegated authority to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program under the Clean Water Act, has administratively extended all relevant NPDES permits. They have just recently reached out to both the permitted community and other stakeholders to engage in discussions regarding a strategy for moving forward with permitting and other approaches for reducing PCBs, especially in the Spokane River. The Department of Ecology is considering an approach in which they will work with each discharger individually, consistent with the flexibilities available under the Clean Water Act.

We continue to hear from many different stakeholders regarding this topic, and we are committed to supporting Ecology as they identify a path forward. Thank you again for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hladick".

Chris Hladick  
Regional Administrator